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# **Caistor Rural District Council**

**Lindsey, Lincolnshire**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.**

and of the

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
AND SURVEYOR**

**V. G. HUDSON, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., M.A.R.D.S.**

for the Year

**1958**



**COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH,  
PLANNING, HOUSING AND WATER :**

**(a) Public Health, Water and Planning Committee.**

Chairman : Councillor J. W. COUSINS

Vice-Chairman : Councillor A. B. NAYLOR, J.P.

**(b) Housing.**

Chairman : Councillor H. KEY

Vice-Chairman : Councillor G. WHITE

**(c) General Purposes Committee.**

Chairman : Councillor J. NICKERSON

**(d) Market Rasen U.D. Joint Water Supply Committee.**

Councillors J. W. COUSINS

H. KEY

W. C. HALL, J.P.

W. B. LEANIGN

A. B. NAYLOR, J.P.

} Caistor R.D.

Councillor H. V. BECKETT, Market Rasen U.D.

**(e) Clerk of the Council.**

C. G. BARR, M.B.E.

**(f) Deputy Clerk.**

J. BRAY

**STAFF :**

**Medical Officer of Health :**

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Telephone : Caistor 322

**Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :**

V. G. HUDSON, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., M.A.R.D.S.

Caistor 322

**Additional Public Health Inspector and Assistant Surveyor :**

H. TODD, M.P.H.I.A.

Caistor 322

**Water Manager :**

H. DIXON

Caistor 323 (now Caistor 263)



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the CAISTOR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As my period of active life with your Council may be drawing to a close I am submitting a rather fuller Annual Report for the year 1958.

One of the salient and distressing features of the year was the outbreak of poliomyelitis in its latter half. This is dealt with in more detail under the appropriate heading. Three, out of the eight cases notified in the Rural District, unfortunately died.

It is to be hoped that the intensive campaign for vaccination against this serious disease may lead to its better control in the future. A further point of interest with regard to this epidemic was that it was the worst recorded in 1958. In this respect it bears comparison with a similar severe outbreak which occurred as long ago as 1891.

The rehousing, and rehabilitation, of problem families gives rise to considerable anxiety. While it can be said that the number of Council houses and bungalows is now fairly adequate for present demands, the provision of reconditioned houses for some of these families would help to solve some of their difficulties. On the other hand quite a number of families continue to exist in properties which are below reasonable standards for them to maintain a healthy life. Most of these properties could not be brought up to a satisfactory condition at reasonable cost. A detailed survey of these properties will be required in the future.

Pure and adequate water supply is now available in all the parishes in the Rural District. The opening of the sewage scheme for Waddingham was one of the major advances made during the year. Climatically speaking the year was a very unsatisfactory one. Rainfall was concentrated on the summer months and the number of rainy days was excessive.

The duties and responsibilities of your officers do not diminish with the years.

In this connection I wish to draw your attention to the valuable educational work that Mr. V. G. Hudson has carried out in the schools and elsewhere.

The Public Health Officer will have to enter more and more into this sphere of activity in the future. The education of our children and our adult community in a hygienic way of life should form a basic feature of our future duties. Mr. V. G. Hudson has fully recognised the importance of this and is to be congratulated on his foresight and on the amount of voluntary work he has done for the community in this respect.

The staff of the Public Health Department have again had a busy year in the many different aspects of Public Health work and I thank them for their loyal co-operation.

Mr. H. Todd has done much useful work. As this may be the last occasion when I can pay tribute to the work of your water engineer - Mr. H. Dixon - I wish to say how much I have appreciated his intelligent help in my duties. I would also like to thank Mr. C. G. Barr and his staff for their unfailing assistance in the work of the Department. I am also grateful to Mr. J. W. Cousins, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and its members for their help in the work of the Department.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

R. J. R. MECREDY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Caistor Rural District Council.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

As your Medical Officer of Health, I feel it my duty to call your attention to certain harmful factors in our daily life. In the youngest age groups I feel it necessary to emphasise again that the unrestricted consumption of sweets and biscuits between meals is a cause of disease. This feature of our modern civilisation will be very difficult to eradicate. A rising standard of living in any nation appears to lead inevitably to the concomitant fact of over-eating of the wrong kinds of foods and insufficient exercise. These are probably some of the basic factors in the changing picture of our morbidity and mortality returns. The rise in the number of deaths from heart disease and allied illnesses may be ascribed fundamentally to these causes.

Another factor has been the increasing pollution of the atmosphere of our cities and towns which has been accompanied by a steady rise in the deaths from bronchitis and similar diseases in the town dweller. In the countryside the morbidity and death rate from respiratory diseases is much lower but it is also rising. A further change for the worse is found in the rising number of deaths from cancer of the lungs and allied conditions.

This can be ascribed to two major causes—excessive cigarette smoking and pollution of the air we breathe.

Diseases due to polluted water have been almost completely eliminated as have deaths from all the major infections. They have been replaced in the older age groups by other more chronic diseases which are mostly preventable.

Positive health is the possession of only a small proportion of the citizens of our civilised communities to-day. It is unfortunate, in this respect, that doctors are only regarded as the purveyors of cures for various diseases.

The time is long overdue when information on the attainment of health could be sought and obtained from any physician.

So far as the prevention of disease is concerned one of the tasks ahead is that of modifying our dietetic habits so as to make them productive of health and not disease. A second major task is the elimination of all forms of pollution from the air we breathe. This will become even more important in future years as the hazards of radioactive fall-out are added to those of the fumes of diesel and petrol engines to aggravate still further the noxious gases and dust produced by our coal fires and industrial furnaces.

It is possible even now to envisage a future when with the knowledge we have it will be practicable to eliminate the morbidity and mortality from cancer of the lung, bronchitis, diseases of the heart and arteries and many of the other crippling diseases. With the latter one must include diseases or weaknesses of the mind. At the same time it should then be possible to extend considerably the period of active employment, (and enjoyment of life), for all human beings. Old age could then be faced with equanimity freed, as it could be, from all the pains and tribulations which now accompany it.

These diseases are increasing in the most civilised communities with high standards of living. They are relatively unimportant in the so-called underdeveloped countries. There is evidently a price to be paid for our present way of life.

The cure of disease is very desirable but its prevention, and final complete eradication, would be a far better aim and would justify the title "homo sapiens" which the anthropologists have been pleased, perhaps prematurely, to bestow upon the human race.



## SECTION A—Vital and General Statistics.

The estimated population for the Rural District shows a slight fall of 150 for the year. This is in train with my observations in my last report on the gradual decline in the rural population since 1901. There was an actual excess of 73 in births over deaths during the year, so the probable decline would be in the neighbourhood of 220. So far as is known there was no marked change in the number of service personnel living in the R.A.F. stations, which amounts to over 2,000 people.

The birth rate remains at a considerably higher rate than that for the country as a whole.

The death rate shows a rise and is now about level with that of the country as a whole.

For the first time three deaths have been recorded from poliomyelitis.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms, (tumours), have doubled since 1948.

Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system have almost doubled in the same period. Over two thirds of all deaths recorded are due to these two groups of diseases.

There are 40 parishes in the Rural District.

The area of the district is 119,992 acres.

This makes it one of the more sparsely populated areas in Lincolnshire.

Population 1901	....	13,288
„ 1911	....	13,146
„ 1921	....	12,876
„ 1931	....	12,659
„ 1951 (civilian)	....	12,194
Total 1951	....	14,340
Estimated 1957	....	14,480
„ 1958	....	14,330
Habitable houses excluding Service Premises	....	4,343
Caravans (licensed)	....	55

The rateable value of the district on the 1st April, 1958, was £108,334 and the product of a penny rate was £433-7-1 for the year ending 31st March, 1958.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1958

For England and Wales

Total live births	....	237	—
Total illegitimate live births	....	5	—
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1958 (corrected)	....	19.02	16.1
Total deaths	....	174	—
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (corrected)	....	11.6	11.7
Deaths of infants under one year of age	....	5	—
Stillbirths	....	6	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	....	4	—
Death rate of infants under one year of age	....	21.1 per 1,000	24.7
Deaths of illegitimate infants	....	1	—
Deaths from all malignant Neoplasms	....	33	—
Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system	....	95	—
Deaths from Measles	....	Nil	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	....	Nil	—
Deaths from Puerperal causes	....	Nil	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis	....	3	—

## Causes of Death in Caistor Rural District, 1958

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ....	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other forms ....	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ....	—	—
4. Diphtheria ....	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ....	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ....	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ....	2	1
8. Measles ....	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ....	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasms, stomach ....	3	—
11. Malignant Neoplasms, lung, bronchus ....	3	—
12. Malignant Neoplasms, breast ....	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasms, uterus ....	—	6
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ....	10	10
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ....	—	1
16. Diabetes ....	1	—
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous system ....	12	8
18. Coronary disease, Angina ....	20	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease ....	1	2
20. Other heart disease ....	15	25
21. Other circulatory disease ....	2	3
22. Influenza ....	—	—
23. Pneumonia ....	3	—
24. Bronchitis ....	2	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ....	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ....	1	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ....	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ....	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ....	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ....	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ....	12	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents ....	6	—
34. All other accidents ....	3	4
35. Suicide ....	1	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ....	—	—
	98	76    174

### General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

#### 1. (a) *Mental Illness.*

Treatment is arranged in conjunction with the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and aftercare is carried out by specially trained staff employed by the Lindsey County Council.

#### 1. (b) *Mental Defectives.*

The County Council, through the Regional Hospital Board, makes arrangements for the institutional care of mental defectives.

The County Council is responsible for the care and supervision of mental defectives in their homes.

#### 2. *Laboratory Facilities.*

Examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln and at Grimsby and District Hospital. Diphtheria Anti-toxin, Anti-typhoid serum, and Scarlet Fever (streptococcus) Anti-toxin are supplied from the above laboratories.

### 3. *Ambulance Facilities.*

The National Fire Service has general supervision of all ambulances. An ambulance can be obtained either through the patient's doctor or nurse or, in the event of an emergency, by asking the telephone operator for the ambulance station.

## **Summary (for reference) of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the District.**

*Nursing in the Home.* All district nurses come under the authority of the Lindsey County Council.

### *Tuberculosis Treatment Centres.*

Treatment and aftercare of tuberculosis cases are dealt with by the Regional Hospital Board. The nearest centres are at Brigg, Lincoln and Grimsby.

### *Hospital, Isolation.*

All cases of infectious diseases, including Smallpox, are dealt with by the Regional Hospital Board.

### *Midwifery and Maternity Services.*

These are controlled by the Lindsey County Council.

### *Health Visitors.*

The Lindsey County Council is in charge of these.

### *Infant Life Protection.*

This is undertaken by the Lindsey County Council.

### *Dental Clinics and treatments.*

This is arranged for mothers and children by the Lindsey County Council. There is a Dental Clinic at Market Rasen.

*School Clinics.* are held at Brigg and Market Rasen.

*Home Help Service.* This is supplied by the Lindsey County Council.

## **SECTION C**

### **Notifiable and Infectious Diseases.**

This was a year relatively free from the less important and less lethal infectious diseases. Cases of diphtheria, dysentery, typhoid and paratyphoid fever were also conspicuous by their absence.

On the other hand a severe epidemic of poliomyelitis occurred which appeared to have its centre in the Market Rasen Urban District. Eight cases were notified of which seven were cases of paralysis and one an abortive case. The first two cases occurred in July. Four occurred in August, one in September and one in October. The three adults affected, all with the paralytic type, died. The first case in Market Rasen occurred at the end of June and up to the last case in October eleven cases were notified. Two of these, one adult and an adolescent boy, died.

All the Caistor cases occurred within a radius of nine miles of Market Rasen. Ten isolated cases had been notified in the sixteen years from 1942 to 1957 in the Caistor Rural District. There is no record of a case of the disease having been notified in Market Rasen previously.

Taking the area as a whole this appears to have been an exceptionally severe epidemic in view of the small population at risk.



Nineteen cases in all were notified in the two districts and of these 13 were paralytic and six non-paralytic. There were five deaths. Four of these occurred in adults, out of five affected. There was one death in a secondary school boy. None of the other children affected had severe attacks and only three are now under treatment.

A young man of 19 years in the Rural District experienced a severe attack and has a residual paralysis.

An enquiry into an epidemic of paralysis which occurred in 1891 in Market Rasen Urban and Caistor Rural Districts led to the discovery of four living people who had developed paralysis in that year. An interview with three of these left no doubt that the disease from which they suffered in 1891 was poliomyelitis. Their stories suggest that there may have been quite an extensive outbreak of the disease in that year.

After the considerable epidemic of measles in 1957 there was a marked drop in the cases notified and there was no evidence of any invasion by the disease of the parts of the Rural District not affected by that epidemic. Stainton-le-Vale Parish, (Binbrook Aerodrome), was responsible for almost all the cases of whooping cough.

Caistor and Nettleton together supplied half the notifications of scarlet fever which has remained at a moderately high level of incidence for the last two years. The disease appears to have been relatively mild in character. It is questionable whether the notification of measles, whooping cough, and scarlet fever are of much, if any, importance so far as the control of these diseases is concerned.

The anomalous position which scarlet fever now occupies is particularly noticeable. Does anything which the Medical Officer is able to do have any effect on the course of this disease in its epidemic aspects? While no case of Weil's disease (leptospirosis) has been brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health it is probable that mild sporadic cases of the disease are occurring. Apparently a high proportion of the rat population in Lincolnshire is infected and there is therefore always the possibility of the transmission of the infection to those humans employed in agricultural work or in sewage disposal.

The protection of the community against many of these diseases is essentially a matter of education in hygiene. One of the most fundamental lessons to be learnt at home and in the schools should be the thorough washing of the hands, preferably with a nailbrush before all meals and after the use of the toilet. (W.C.)

A routine inspection of the fingers and hands of children before meals in all schools and at home would probably have more effect in the prevention of diseases of this nature than any other single step. This would seem to be a basic step in the education of all children. It is often ignored completely. The reduction in the cases of the airborne diseases in the population at large is due in great part to the gradual application of the knowledge that non-polluted moving air is an essential to life. The proper ventilation of houses and schools is now an accepted fact. Sixty years ago night air was regarded as particularly dangerous and all windows were tightly shut at bedtime.

The exposure of children and adults to cold air and wet conditions does not necessarily have any effect in causing disease. Indeed the knowledge of the causes of many diseases has changed completely in the last sixty years and following on this the work of prevention has entered on a new phase.

The teaching and practice of hygiene in the schools is in urgent need of a more dynamic approach.



Notifiable Diseases	1958	1957	Average for 1952-57	Average for 1942-51	Average for 1932/41	Average for 1901-10
Measles ....	26	343	145.5	140	—†	—
Whooping Cough	21	144	75.6	43	—†	—
Scarlet Fever ....	36	42	21.6	25.6	20.2	30.0
Diphtheria ....	0	0	0	3.2	3.7	23.7
Pneumonia ....	7	13	6	6.4	7.3	—
Tuberculosis						
Pulmonary ....	6	6	4.66	7.4	8.7	—
Non-Pulmonary	1	0	2.33	5.4	3.8	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	1.3	1.8	—†	—
Erysipelas ....	1	0	.83	3.5	3.2	4.2*
Poliomyelitis						
Paralytic ....	6	0	.5	.6	—	—
Non-Paralytic	2					
Ophthalmia						
Neonatorum....	0	0	0	1.0	0.6	—
Typhoid and Para typhoid Fever	0	0	.4	.3	.7	4.8
Dysentery ....	0	1	2.5	1.8	—	—
Food Poisoning	6	1	1	0	—	—
Encephalitis ....						
Infective ....	1	0	.5	0	0	0
Malaria ....	0	1	.13	0	0	—
TOTALS ....	113	551	262.8	240.0	—	—
† Not notifiable		★	1903-12			

## Immunisation

The considerable fall in the number of children immunised against diphtheria and against whooping cough was, probably in part, due to the greatly increased number of children protected against poliomyelitis. This in many cases led to a postponement of the immunisations against diphtheria and whooping cough. It was often found that consent had been given to the vaccination against poliomyelitis but not against diphtheria in the case of school children.

The County Medical Officer of Health has informed me that during 1958, 123 children had been immunised against diphtheria, 91 against whooping cough, and 70 against tetanus. 173 children received a "booster" injection against diphtheria, 84 of these children received some form of joint immunisation.

87 children were vaccinated against smallpox and there were 8 revaccinations. No figures are as yet available for children vaccinated against poliomyelitis. In a rough check of nearly 400 children over 50% were found to have been vaccinated against poliomyelitis.

With the ever increasing number of immunisations and vaccinations now being carried out, or recommended, in infancy and childhood, it is very desirable that some kind of satisfactory multiple protection should be developed. Alternatively the production of immunisation through taking the vaccines by the mouth should be accelerated.

At present the approach of a doctor, white coated or otherwise garbed, to an infant or to a small child leads, only too often, to an outburst of crying. This relationship of doctor to child is most unfortunate and may often lead to psychological reactions which persist into adolescence.

One is reminded here of Aldous Huxley's vision of the future, in his "Brave New World" where the infant is protected before birth against all the possible future infections he or she may encounter.

This fanciful idea cannot be regarded as anything but utopian at present.

A further observation in this respect is the absolute necessity of treating each child as an individual, when immunising is in progress. The conveyor belt method of dealing with the younger age groups of children can lead to disastrous immediate results apart from future mental trauma. It is possible to vaccinate or immunise a group of the youngest children, in full sight of the operation, without a tear being shed, and accompanied by a considerable amount of laughter from the participators in the ritual.

A return to schools where this course has been followed shows that the children no longer regard the vaccination session as something to be dreaded.

## SECTION D

### Water Supply

1958 was largely overshadowed by the negotiations involved in the creation of the new North East Lindsey Water Board and this finally resulted in the transfer of the Caistor Rural District water undertaking to the new Board on 1st April, 1959.

During 1958 the new 6" link main from Hamilton Hill, Market Rasen to Skinners Lane was completed; this enabled the water from the Tealby springs to be fed into the Otby system and also permitted five properties to be connected to the main supply.

### Samples

Regular sampling of the water supply system was again carried out and the attached summary shows the results found. The various unsatisfactory reports were always investigated and, in every case, repeat samples showed an improvement or allowed the source of the pollution to be ascertained and dealt with.

Samples for bacteriological examination were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln and chemical analyses were done by Northern Analysts Ltd., Hull.

### Bacteriological examination

Source			Satisfactory	Un-Satisfactory	Total
Caistor	....	....	42	Nil	42
Nettleton	....	....	39	Nil	39
Otby	....	....	35	4	39
Tealby	....	....	32	5	37
<b>Supplies from other Authorities</b>					
Grimsby	....	....	64	4	68
Welton	....	....	3	Nil	3
Louth	....	....	5	1	6
Gainsborough	....	....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Private Supplies	....	....	6	7	13
TOTALS			226	21	247



The chemical analyses for the supply are as follows :—

DETAILS	SOURCES			
	Caistor	Nettleton	Otby	Tealby
Total Solids ....	296	276	332	384
Free Carbon Dioxide ....	12.2	6.4	9.0	12
Free Ammonia as N ....	0.004	0.008	0.010	0.006
Albumenoid Ammonia as N	0.008	0.008	0.005	0.012
Nitrates as N ....	3.6	3.0	3.2	3.4
Nitrites as N ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chlorides as Cl ....	19	20	18.5	22.0
Alkalinity expressed as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	187.5	150	210	260.0
Permanganate figure (N/80 4 hours) ....	.110	0.128	0.120	0.104
Calcium as Ca ....	86	81	102	121.0
Magnesium as Mg ....	5.2	3.2	4.8	3.7
Sodium as Na ....	17.8	17.9	17.1	19.7
Carbonates as CO <sub>3</sub> ....	112.5	90	126	156
Sulphates as SO <sub>4</sub> ....	39.5	49	44	48
Nitrates as NO <sub>3</sub> ....	15.9	13.3	14.2	15
pH Value ....	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.4

### Domestic Properties connected to mains water at December 31st 1958

PARISH	No of houses	No. sup.	PARISH	No. of houses	No. sup.
Bigby ....	81	75	Brought forward ....	2549	2464
Bishop Norton ....	115	112	Osgodby ....	161	158
Brocklesby ....	58	52	Owersby ....	112	107
Buslingthorpe ....	28	26	Rasen, Middle ....	398	392
Cabourne ....	34	33	Rasen West ....	46	46
Caistor ....	578	570	Riby ....	73	65
Claxby ....	63	63	†Rothwell ....	74	71
Glentham ....	108	104	†Searby-cum-Owmby	53	53
Grasby ....	113	108	Sixhills ....	29	26
*Holton-le-Moor ....	60	58	Snitterby ....	72	72
Keelby ....	300	290	Somerby ....	23	23
Kelsey, North ....	278	270	†Stainton-le-Vale	40	34
Kelsey, South ....	165	160	†Swallow ....	73	73
Kirmond-le-Mire	20	17	†Swinhope ....	23	6
Legsby ....	102	101	Tealby ....	194	183
Limber ....	127	118	Thoresway ....	57	30
Linwood ....	48	47	†Thorganby ....	30	30
Lissington ....	63	63	Toft Newton ....	39	39
Nettleton ....	180	175	Waddingham ....	174	170
Normanby-le-Wold	28	22	Walesby ....	76	57
Carried forward	2549	2464	Willingham, North	47	42
* Private supply only.			TOTALS	4343	4141
			† Part Private Supply.		

## SECTION E

### Sewerage and sewage disposal

Towns and villages with complete sewerage schemes :—

(1) Caistor—disposal by land treatment over 7 acres.  
Standard of effluent—good.

(2) Keelby—disposal to new sewage disposal works.  
Standard of effluent—good.

- (3) Tealby—disposal to new sewage disposal works.  
Standard of effluent—good.
- (4) Middle Rasen—disposal to sewage disposal works. Belong-  
ing to Market Rasen U.D.C. in Middle Rasen parish.  
Standard of effluent—quite good.
- (5) Waddingham—the new scheme was put into operation and  
the pollution of the village stream was completely removed.  
The standard of effluent from the new works improved as  
the works settled down into normal routine.

Villages with partial sewerage schemes :—

- (1) North Kelsey—disposal by combined “sewer” with land  
treatment in field of .652 acres. Discharge to dyke—  
effluent not good.
- (2) South Kelsey—North End—disposal by combined “sewer”  
to twin settlement tanks. Discharge of effluent therefrom  
to dyke.
- (3) South Kelsey—South End. New sewage disposal works with  
complete treatment—built in conjunction with new Council  
housing estate. Effluent good.

Drainage problems from polluted dykes continued to arise and the Council’s system of annual cleansing of dykes by contract was again helpful in reducing serious nuisance.

A total length of 257 chains was cleansed by this system at a cost of £246-5-10.

The Council again considered drainage problems which exist in many villages where the widespread distribution of mains water has resulted in serious pollution of ditches, and where the possibility of the provision of a full-scale sewerage scheme is unlikely to be possible at an economic cost. The Council felt that even a 50% reduction in pollution of watercourses if it were done now, and at a reasonably cheap rate, was preferable to waiting for a major scheme giving 100% treatment in the distant future, and the Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor was instructed to try to devise some scheme which would allow for this.

The provision of a sewerage scheme for Nettleton and the improvement of the scheme for Caistor was actively considered during the year.

The Council supported the need for improvements to the School drainage system and sanitary accommodation at Rothwell School.

16 Sewer swabs were used as follows :—

North Kelsey	....	....	....	....	4
Caistor	....	....	....	....	5
South Kelsey	....	....	....	....	2
North Owersby	....	....	....	....	1
Nettleton	....	....	....	....	2
Keelby	....	....	....	....	2

None of these showed any trace of organisms of the enteric, dysentery, or Salmonella groups.

## SECTION F

### Public Health Nuisances

No serious nuisance occurred during the year. The only public health problems which caused some trouble were :—

- (a) Another overturned fish lorry which discharged loose fish fillets in a field.
- (b) Continued complaints about the discharge of fish juice on to the highway—particularly at road junctions and level crossings.
- (c) Polluted dykes which adjoined villages.



## SECTION G

### Housing

Figuratively the position as regards housing appears to be satisfactory. With 27 new houses or bungalows available as against six demolished it would seem that this is being adequately dealt with. In addition to this the number of houses which have been, or are being, improved with the help of grants is considerable.

If caravans are considered as temporary homes it would appear that the number of dwellings available for the civilian population is nearly 4,400 for approximately 12,000 people which represents a population density of about 2.7 people per house.

And yet there are still a very great number of defective houses which, for one reason or another, are not yet listed for demolition under the heading of slum clearance.

Indeed it may be said that the pace of slum clearance, or the demolition of individual houses, still depends on the provision of alternative accommodation. The number of subnormal families add to this problem. It is admitted that they ought to be rehoused in order to help them and their children to escape from the stigma of being unwanted and subnormal, and in order to give them some opportunity of improving their mental and physical well-being.

These families are often semi nomadic which makes the problem of adequately rehousing them more difficult.

It must be realised, however, that the only chance of betterment of these families lies in early transfer to new dwellings combined with a tactful and close supervision of their way of life in a fresh environment.

## SECTION H

### Health and Welfare of Schoolchildren

152 children attended the School Clinic in Market Rasen during the year. 24 of these were examined for their fitness for employment out of school hours. 128 children attended for investigation or treatment of various minor ailments.

Anaemia and bronchitis were the reason for the attendance of 28 children.

Asthenia and poor nutrition accounted for 20 children. Twenty children were referred for some degree of defective hearing. In 14 cases wax blocking one or both ears required removal. Only three children were treated for otitis media. Skin diseases were seen in 8 children and impetigo, scabies and pediculosis were not seen.

The number of children attending the school clinic has tended to decline over the last few years. 22 children were examined because of apparent backwardness at school. 17 of these lived in the Caistor or Market Rasen Districts and of these 14 were adjudged to be educationally subnormal. Five of these had exceptionally low intelligence or problems of behaviour which made attendance at ordinary school of dubious value.

There seems to be little, if any, provision in the educational syllabus for the teaching of hygiene to school children. On the practical side many schools have no systematic inspection of the children's hands for their cleanliness before meals. In any event nail brushes are seldom supplied and it is impossible to get clean finger nails without their use.

The use of the common towel is another objectionable feature in many schools. The only time many of these children will learn anything about cleanliness is at school and teachers, I think, should be encouraged to devote more time each day to this aspect of life.

The promiscuous eating of sweets and sweet biscuits etc., throughout the day has become a typical feature of the life of the school child in most of the so-called civilised societies.

Dentists agree that this is the major cause of dental caries. While the canteen may provide well balanced meals it cannot affect the habits of the children otherwise. A more rational approach to this whole subject is needed.

## **SECTION I. Climate**

The total rainfall for the year again shows little variation from the average for a period of years. The fact that farmers and others considered that it was a wet year was probably due to the fact that 14 inches of rain, out of a total of 29 inches, fell in the four months from May to August inclusive. Rain fell on an average of 18 days in each of these months, June and July, which should normally be fairly dry and warm, were the two wettest months of the year. As a contrast April and November were the two driest months with less than an inch of rain each and with an average of eleven rainy days between them. The lottery of Lincolnshire weather is again emphasized by these records.

Thanks are again due to Mr. Dixon for keeping these records.



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

To the CAISTOR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is always difficult to view a year's work with a completely detached mind but 1958 was, it is thought, a year of considerable progress in all aspects of the work of a local authority with almost 120,000 acres of rural England to administer. The most important single factor continued to be the great improvement to living conditions which resulted from further work under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949. The Council have been very concerned, and rightly in my view, to see that the standard of amenities enjoyed by the farmworker and his family, often in isolated houses, should be as high as that possessed by dwellers in urban communities.

The Council have felt that only by large-scale provision of bathrooms, hot water systems and water closets in farm cottages will the drift of farmworkers from the land be arrested. The amount of grant allocated to date, £84,341 is approximately  $\frac{2}{5}$ ths of the total cost involved; it means that, out of work costing over £210,000, owners have paid £126,000 towards the cost of improvement in 393 houses in this area—in the region of £320 per dwelling improved—and that grants of £220 per house have been made from public funds.

The virtual completion of the sewerage scheme at Waddingham meant that another recurring public health problem was dealt with. The residents of Waddingham took full advantage of the facilities offered and conversions to water closets proceeded at a high rate.

As stated in earlier reports my personal efforts depend entirely on the loyal support and co-operation of many people and I would again commend the skill and hard work of my staff, technical and administrative, and of the outside staff who carry out the essential functions of a public health authority.

I am also grateful for the help, guidance and encouragement I receive at all times from the Clerk and his staff and I wish also to thank the Medical Officer of Health for his helpful guidance throughout the year.

To the Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of the Public Health and Housing Committees, and to all the members of the Council, I would express my sincere thanks—Caistor Rural District is fortunate to have members who work so unstintingly for the public good and it is a pleasure to serve such a local authority.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

VINCENT G. HUDSON.

# Town and Country Planning

The Council continued to operate, as in previous years, delegated powers from the Lindsey County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. During the year 296 planning proposals were received and dealt with. The relationship between this Council and the County Planning Officer was at all times most cordial and no unnecessary delay occurred in arriving at a decision.

Of the 296 plans, 4 were refused and 8 withdrawn.

3 were refused on planning grounds only; 2 housing sites and one for display of neon sign and the fourth, site for erection of bungalow and garage, was refused on byelaw grounds only.

There were no appeals.

## Housing and Building Development.

General—the number of new house plans was 24 and the number of houses under construction at the end of the year, 4.

6 bungalows were completed by the Council, 21 by private enterprise and 2 Police Houses by the Lindsey County Council.

The former police house and station in Caistor were bought by the Council and plans submitted to convert the police station office and the cells into a bungalow.

### 4. New Houses

During the past 29 years (1930/1958 inclusive)

				Average per Year	
				P.E.	Cl.
1930-39 (10 years)	....	....	247	80	25
1939-45 ( 6 years)	....	....	—	30	—
1945-58 (13 years)	....	....	195	373	15
				442	42

### 5. The Houses built (and completed) in 1958 were in the following parishes :—

			Caistor R.D.C.	Private Enterprise
Caistor	....	....	—	5 (includes 2 Police Houses)
Keelby	....	....	6	7
North Kelsey	....	....	—	1
South Kelsey	....	....	—	4 (includes 1 pre-fab)
Middle Rasen	....	....	—	1
Osgodby	....	....	—	1
Owersby	....	....	—	3 (includes 1 pre-fab)
Swallow	....	....	—	1
TOTALS			6	23

### 6. Caravans

The number of licensed caravans in the area during the year was 55—up to 30 on the licensed site at Swinhope and 25 individual licences.

No problem arose at any of the caravan sites (26 in all) and caravans were used entirely for residential purposes.

Each separately sited caravan was the subject of an annual licence under the Public Health Act, 1936.



3. TABLE OF PLANS APPROVED DURING THE YEAR 1958  
with corresponding details for 1954-57

Type of Building	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
1. Council Houses ....	16	7	—	12	4
2. Private Houses ....	27	14	26	23	24
3. Additions and Alterations to Houses ....	65	65	68	105	84
4. Conversions to Houses ....	8	6	5	2	1
5. Farm Buildings ....	5	4	5	3	8
6. Factories (including alterations and additions) ....	—	—	2	1	2
7. Temporary Buildings ....	7	—	—	—	3
8. Licensed Premises (alterations and additions) ....	7	3	2	1	4
9. Shops (including alterations and additions) ....	2	—	4	—	1
10. Petrol Stations and Garages	4	6	6	3	1
11. Local Authority (sewers and water schemes) ....	1	3	2	2	1
12. Statutory Undertakings (Electricity Board etc.) ....	73	57	24	46	66
13. Private Garages ....	20	42	38	35	46
14. Mineral Workings ....	—	2	3	—	3
15. Advertisements ....	8	6	7	—	4
16. Bus Shelters ....	—	—	1	—	1
17. Store Sheds ....	—	3	5	8	6
18. Cafe and additions ....	3	2	—	1	1
19. School ....	6	1	1	—	1
20. Deep Litter Houses ....	3	—	1	3	2
21. Caravan Sites & Caravans	1	1	—	—	—
22. Playing Fields ....	1	1	—	1	—
23. New Business Premises and Alterations ....	—	15	—	1	1
24. Burial Grounds ....	—	2	3	2	1
25. Alterations to and additional accesses ....					6
26. Housing Sites ....					11
27. Church and Church buildings					2
28. Withdrawals ....					8
29. Refusals ....					4
TOTALS ....	257 1954	240 1955	203 1956	249 1957	296 1958

## 7. COUNCIL HOUSES—NUMBER IN EACH PARISH

Parish	Total Pre-War	War- time	Post- War	TOTAL	Being built	No. of current applicants
Bigby	—	—	8	8	—	5
Bishop Norton	—	2	8	10	—	5
Brocklesby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buslingthorpe	4	—	2	6	—	—
Cabourne	—	—	2	2	—	1
Caistor	36*	4	59	99	—	77
Claxby	—	—	6	6	—	6
Glenthams	—	2	8	10	—	9
Grasby	4	—	4	8	—	4
Holton-le-Moor	—	—	4	4	—	7
Keelby	18	2	34	54	—	34
Kelsey, North	18	2	30	50	—	21
Kelsey, South	14	2	18	34	—	17
Kirmond-le-Mire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legsby	2	2	10	14	—	12
Limber	8	—	12	20	—	12
Linwood	—	—	6	6	—	3
Lissington	—	—	4	4	—	3
Nettleton	14	—	24	38	—	32
Normanby-le-Wold	—	—	4	4	—	4
Osgodby	10	2	6	18	—	10
Owersby	6	4	10	20	—	9
Rasen, Middle	18	—	20	38	—	32
Rasen, West	—	2	2	4	—	9
Riby	—	—	4	4	—	10
Rothwell	—	4	22	26	—	9
Searby-cum-Owmby	—	—	6	6	—	4
Sixhills	—	—	2	2	—	1
Snitterby	4	—	8	12	—	5
Somerby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stainton-le-Vale	—	—	2	2	—	1
Swallow	—	—	8	8	—	9
Swinhope	—	—	4	4	—	2
Tealby	—	—	12	12	—	15
Thoresway	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorganby	—	—	—	—	—	1
Toft Newton	—	—	2	2	—	—
Waddingham	18	2	12	32	—	13
Walesby	—	—	6	6	—	1
Willingham, North	—	—	4	4	—	5
	<u>174</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>577</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>388</u>

Pre-War 174 shown above are all houses.

War-time 30 shown above are all houses.

Post-War 373—Houses 297. Bungalows 76.

\* includes 6 ex Private dwellings.



## 8. Council Houses—General Remarks.

The standard rents of Council houses were as follows :—

Year to 31/3/59.

Type	Standard Rent per week	Rates per week
Pre-war :—		
3 bed. all services	1/14/0	(Waddingham) 6/5 to 9/1 (Caistor)
3 bed. Other	1/8/0	(Snitterby) 4/6 to 8/8 (Caistor)
Agricultural houses (1944)	1/13/6	(Bishop Norton) 6/8 to 9/1 (Caistor)
Post-war—houses		
3 bed.	1/15/0	(Toft Newton) 5/11 to 9/6 (Caistor)
2 bed	1/12/6	(Rothwell 5/7 to 7/10 (Caistor
Bungalows	1/10/6	(Rothwell) 4/6 to 6/2 (Caistor)

The Council adopted a system of graduated rent rebates for those whose income was below £13 per week. These rebates increased for the lower income figures, so that persons with £8 or less a week had the full rebate, of which the maximum was 15/- per week. The system, controlled by the Clerk and his staff, worked well after the usual initial difficulties anticipated in such a major change of rent policy.

The Council continued to allocate £10-10-0 per year per dwelling for maintenance purposes. 120 houses and bungalows were painted by contract at a total cost of £1,208-0-0.

## 9. Council house improvements—pre-war houses

The Council approved a scheme for the provision of water closets in all its Council dwellings—the 36 houses involved were in five parishes.

A new scheme for the proper drainage of four pre-war Council houses at North Owersby was completed during the year.

## 10. Repairs and improvements to private houses and general work under the building byelaws.

Again the variety of plans submitted as shown in the table of plans was such that practically all aspects of building operations were carried out in the district.

Co-operation with builders was generally of a high standard.

## 11. Housing Act, 1949 Section 20—Improvement Grants

Number of premises involved 79.

Total cost of work £42,677-0-8.

Amount of grant £17,229-5-0.

Average Grant was 43.4% of the total cost and was £218-2-0.

Total amount of Grant allocated £84,341.

Number of properties improved 393.

Average grant per dwelling £214-12-0.

The Council continued to operate Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949. In the majority of cases the grant was for the provision of bathroom, water closet, sink hot water system and drainage together with incidental alterations necessary to allow for these improvements.

## 12. Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

1 Certificate of Disrepair was issued under this Act during the year.

## 13. Summary of work under the Housing Act and Public Health Acts during 1958

### (a) Dwelling-house inspection

(1) Total houses inspected for defects	....	....	....	104
(2) Number of inspections made for purpose	....	....		272
(3) Number of dwellings found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation				7
(4) Number of houses found defective but repairable	....			54

### (b) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices

(1) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	....	....	....	....	....	41
---	------	------	------	------	------	----

### (c) Overcrowding

There is no complete record of overcrowding in the district at the moment. The permitted number of new houses and reconditioned properties are added to the register compiled under the Housing Act, 1936.

## 14. Abatement of Nuisances

Total number of nuisances investigated during year	22
Abated as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	21
Statutory Notice issued	1
Details of nuisances are as follows :—	
Refuse	1
Foul ditches and ponds and stagnant water	1
Drainage	8
Poultry and Animals	2
Dangerous Premises	2
Miscellaneous Nuisances	8
	—
TOTAL	22
	—

## 15. Housing Survey

Again no progress was made with this work but it is anticipated that next year's report will show considerable progress in this matter.

## 16. Milk Regulations 1949

Distributors on register :—	Sterilised Milk	11
	Pasteurised	9
	T.T.	4
		—
	Total	24
		—



17. Meat Inspection Unsound Food	Carcases inspected and condemned					
	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Sheep & Lambs	Calves	Pigs	Total
Number killed	330	21	822	4	745	1922
Number Inspected	330	21	822	4	745	1922
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	—	20	—	14	
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than tubercu- losis	7.878%	—	2.433%	—	1.878%	
Tuberculosis only Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—	
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	11	1	—	—	8	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.33%	4.762%	—	—	1.066%	
Cysticercosis. Carcases sub- mitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	
Generalised and totally con- demned	1	—	—	—	—	

## 17. Meat Inspection

The six slaughterhouses continued to be maintained in a good general state of repair and were not the subject of serious complaint. The number of carcasses inspected increased from 1727 in 1957 to 1922 in 1958—the increase was due to greater numbers of sheep and pigs slaughtered.

The withdrawal of the registration of the dead weight certification centre at Nettleton (August 1958) will mean a reduction in the number of pigs slaughtered.

## 18. Food Premises

The following premises are registered in the Rural District :—

Bakehouses	....	....	....	5
Fish and Chip Shops	....	....	....	6
Preserved Food preparation	....	....	....	11
Ice Cream (retail)	....	....	....	49
				71

A steady improvement in the standard of hygiene required by the public, and practised by the food handlers, is becoming apparent. It is a slow process to bring all food shops up to the best modern standards, but slowly but surely there becomes an increasing awareness of the need for a higher standard. Officials largely act as guides and advisors, rather than using compulsion, for unless food hygiene is practised all the time, then the spasmodic efforts following official visits will prove to be of little value.

Liquid eggs—the Egg Packing Station was closed for some time during 1958; the standard during the period it was open considerably improved and the projected new room with deep freeze refrigerator, was built.

Details of the samples taken were as follows :—

Number taken	Number satisfactory	Number unsatisfactory
24	2	22

## 19. Ice Cream

49 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

29 samples were taken as follows :—

Grade I	....	....	....	15
Grade II	....	....	....	10
Grade III	....	....	....	1
Grade IV	....	....	....	3
				—
				29

The samples were taken in a deep-freeze container (using frozen carbon dioxide) to Lincoln Public Health Laboratory for examination. 25 were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

## 20. Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Number of factories on register :—

Power	....	....	....	74
Non-power	....	....	....	7
				—
				81
Inspections made	....	....	....	93

Only very small factories operate in the area, the largest are repair garages, and no serious problems arose. One certificate of means of escape in case of fire was issued.

## 21. Sewerage

The routine maintenance of the various sewage disposal works for towns and villages (4), for minor schemes and Council house systems (46) was carried out by two men with a van (purchased in 1958). Regular visits were made to all the various works and the general standard of maintenance was good.



## 22. Drainage

The Council again gave grants under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 on the following basis :—

For connection to septic tank	....	£10
For connection to sewer	.. ....	£5

With the proviso in both cases that the grant would be 50% only if the work cost less than £20 or £10 respectively.

During 1958, 69 properties were the subject of assistance.

		Total cost
48 for connection to sewer	....	£240
21 for connection to septic tank	....	£210
		<hr/>
TOTAL		£450
		<hr/>

Many of the grants towards the cost of the provision of a water closet were at Waddingham where the construction of the sewerage scheme and the provision of water closets were done at the same time.

## 23. Water Supply

Further discussions on the water undertaking and its amalgamation with Grimsby and Cleethorpes Water Board were held and the date was finally fixed for 1st April, 1959.

## 24. Public Scavenging

The Council collect from the whole rural district with the exception of one small parish, Kirmond-le-Mire, on a fortnightly basis. Weekly collections are given at Caistor, Stainton-le-Vale and Toft Newton parishes.

Disposal is to disused sand pits, to natural depressions, quarries etc., and care is taken to see that no nuisance arises. The services of a heavy duty bulldozer were utilised on all tips and this kept the top surfaces of the tips in reasonable condition; no serious nuisance arose from tipping, either from fire or general causes.

Collection of nightsoil continues on a weekly basis from 999 houses per week; disposal of the contents of these and of the 192 treatment tanks emptied is partly by composting with straw and partly by discharge over agricultural land.

A record of the place of disposal of each load is kept.

## 25. Rodent Control

The Council continued to employ a full-time operator and he carried out not only disinfection works against rats, mice, and various insects but also surveyed a considerable section of the area to ascertain the presence of pests. This survey work was considered to be one of the most important aspects of the work and the results were reflected by the comparatively small number of complaints received.

The following is an extract from the annual return to the Ministry of Agriculture on this work :—

Properties : inspected on complaint	....	1339
surveyed	.... ....	1317
		<hr/>
		2656
		<hr/>
Inspections	.... ....	3207
Infestations :—		
Rats	Major 361 Minor 1076	Total 1437
Mice	Major 214 Minor 4	Total 218

The voles (*arvicola amphibius*) referred to in the last report continue to occur in vast numbers on the Wolds and near streams. The attention of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was again directed to their presence and much work was done by them, and in co-operation with them, to discover the degree and area of infestation and trying to find means of eradicating them. Tests of a number of voles were made but no evidence that they were carriers of leptospiral organisms could be found.

## **26. Nettleton—extension of iron ore mining operations.**

An Inquiry was held at the Council Offices, Caistor, on 22nd December, 1958, to consider an application for a considerable extension of the area in which mining and open-cast operations are to be carried out.

## **27. Public Convenience—Caistor**

Considerable discussion took place during the year about the erection of a public convenience, with a bus shelter, in the Market Place, Caistor. An arrangement to use the conveniences of one of the public houses in Caistor provided some accommodation for the needs of travellers.

## **28. Staff**

Mr. E. Dawson was appointed Clerk to the department in January, 1958.

## **29. Petroleum installations**

A complete inspection of all installations is in progress; the inspections are being made jointly with an officer of the Lindsey Fire Brigade.

## **30. Public Health Nuisance**

A further lorry, also loaded with 8 tons of fish, crashed into a field approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away from the earlier accident detailed in the 1957 report. Similar action—the spreading of a ton of lime by the Council's workmen—prevented a serious nuisance from arising on the busy main road to Grimsby and Cleethorpes.











J. H. EYRE, PRINTER, MARKET RASEN